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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The President pro tempore offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Give us the wisdom, the strength, and the faith to trust in You in all things and above all things.

Let us pray for this great country—a great country, even when its democracy is threatened. Let us pray that we keep it together.

In Your Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is difficult to put into words what it is like to stand here on the floor of the U.S. Senate on this day of all days.

For 163 years, this space has been the home of the upper Chamber of the American Congress. What has taken place inside this room over the centuries has determined in very real ways the trajectory of our Nation. In this room, we carry on the mission handed down to us by the Framers to assure the voice of the people is heard and represented and acted upon.

But 1 year ago today, on January 6, 2021, mob violence descended upon this Chamber and upon this Capitol. Thousands of rioters, possessed by equal measures of rage, conspiracy, and spurred into action by the sitting President of the United States, attacked the U.S. Capitol in an armed, violent, and deadly effort to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

Its windows were smashed. Its offices were vandalized. And lawmakers and our staffs—everyday citizens who love their country and work here every day—feared for their lives. Nearly 140 police officers were injured, and at least 5 people lost their lives that day or in its aftermath.

The warnings of history are clear. When democracies are in danger, it often starts with a mob. That is what

happened a year ago here in this building: a mob attack. And for mob violence to win the day, it doesn't need everyone to join in. It just needs a critical mass of people to stay out of the way, to ignore it, to underestimate it, to excuse it and even condone it.

The mob can start out as a small number, but if it is allowed to grow and leaders egg on the mob, encourage it, it can become poison. That is what Donald Trump is doing, as even his response to President Biden's speech today showed. And once that happens, the unthinkable could become real. Democracy erodes and could, God forbid—God forbid, horror of horrors—vanish.

The poisonous mob mentality lives on today in the threats against election workers, poll workers, even other public servants like school board members and health workers. This is what erodes a democracy. And Donald Trump today continues to spread his poisonous vile about the Big Lie.

To borrow from President Franklin Roosevelt, the violent insurrection of January 6 was a day that will live forever in infamy, a permanent stain in the story of the American democracy and the final bitter, unforgivable act of the worst President in modern times.

Today, on this first anniversary, Members from both the House and Senate and our staffs, the President, and the Vice President are here today at the Capitol, and one of our purposes is to share memories in commemoration of that day. At noon we will hold a moment of silence in honor of those who were lost because of the attack.

And to all my colleagues and to staff who struggle to get through today, you are not alone. You are not alone. We are here by your side. The Employee Assistance Program has resources available to all Senate staff who are processing what happened a year ago.

Let me share my personal experience on that day. As I have recounted many times since then, my personal experience that day was, in some ways, like

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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